



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Smith Chief Deputy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SERIOUS INJURY TRAFFIC CRASH

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office is investigating a serious injury traffic crash which occurred at about 4:56 PM on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. The crash involved 3 vehicles on Interstate 41 north of STH 28 in the Township of Theresa.

A northbound passenger car merged abruptly to the left lane and braked hard upon approach to a crossover (U-turn area for highway maintenance and law enforcement vehicles). That vehicle was struck from behind by another northbound pickup. The passenger car was pushed into the southbound lanes from that collision and subsequently struck by a southbound straight truck. The operator of the passenger car was flown from the scene with possible life-threatening injuries. The operators of the other two vehicles did not report any injury. None of the vehicles had any passengers.

Due to the seriousness of the injury and the blockage of traffic lanes by crashed vehicles, I-41 southbound traffic was closed for almost 3 hours. All lanes were open as of 7:50 PM.

The sheriff's office Crash Investigation Team (CIT) is leading the crash investigation. The sheriff's office was assisted by the Lomira Police Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, DCERT, Theresa Fire Department, Lomira Fire Department and First Responders, Brownsville Fire Department, Theresa EMS, Flight For Life, Fond du Lac Paramedics, Mayville EMS and Knowles Fire Department. Identities of people involved will not be released for at least 24 hours.

Update 10-14-17

The driver of the passenger car, 49 year old Jill Zabler of Lannon, WI, remained hospitalized due to the injuries from the crash. Her exact condition was not known.

Richard Pautz, 61, Milwaukee, was the driver of the straight truck.

Brian Romanowich, 43, Appleton, was the driver of the pickup truck.

The crash investigation is still ongoing.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J Schmidt.

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